Country	Under 5 Mortality Rate-1998
China	47
India	105
Myanmar	113
Nepal	100
Pakistan	136
Sri Lanka	19

Source: The Progress of Nations-2000.

Supply of Cheaper Iodised Salt in Rural areas

2223. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in rural India, people are still using non-iodised salt because they cannot afford iodised salt because of its high price; if so, whether Government have taken any steps to supply iodised salt at a cheaper price in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) The cost of loose iodised salt is marginally higher than the cost of non-iodised salt. Government has impressed upon the State Governments to distribute iodised salt through Fair Price Shop (FPS) under Public Distribution System (PDS) so that it could be made available to the public at cheaper price. 21 States have already included iodised salt under the PDS for its supply to the selected territories.

Spread of Malaria in Orissa

2224. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of Malaria in western Orissa;

(b) whether a large number of people, most of whom have died due to malaria in eight districts of Orissa, are tribals; and